

Appendix: 2021 Legislative Class Placement Process

Prospective hosts will only be eligible for a fellow if they have fully participated in the placement process.

Prospective hosts will fill out a ranking sheet of Finalists they have interviewed, and provide their rankings to the Program Manager no later than 12:30 PM EDT on Friday, January 29, 2021. This action provides, in rank order, the finalists with whom the office would like to work. Host offices are encouraged to rank all of the finalists that they are willing to host. The National Sea Grant office encourages potential hosts to rank no less than 75% of the finalists that they interview as it increases the chance of hosting a fellow.

Finalists will be placed in host offices based on the Finalist and Host rank order, within the following guidelines. If these guidelines are not met, then the spots will be opened up to the remaining potential hosts:

1. Both parties (Democratic and Republican) are ensured a minimum of four fellowship positions, consistent with the requirements below. This minimum can be composed of personal and committee host offices. For example, one committee placement and three personal office placements could constitute the minimum of four for a party.
 - a. This will only be met if at least six position descriptions are submitted from both parties.
 - b. An independent candidate will be counted with the party with which they caucus.
2. NOAA Sea Grant's Committees of Jurisdiction (House Science, House Natural Resources, and Senate Commerce) will be ensured a fellow if:
 - a. the Committee of Jurisdiction submit a position description and participate in the placement process; and
 - b. the Committee ranks at least 12 of the 17 finalists interviewed.

For 2021, placements for both the executive and legislative classes will be made by a matching algorithm. The algorithm takes into account both the preference of the hosts and the finalists and produces matches that maximize the preference of both sides. This algorithm is most famously used in the National Resident Matching Program - used to match medical residents with hospitals. Though this does not guarantee everyone receives their top choice, it does result in the best overall matches for the class. The National Sea Grant Office has tested the algorithm against the last two years of legislative placement outcomes and the algorithm produced the same placements as the paper method.

The placement process will proceed until all matches are made within the guidelines noted above. While the process seeks to obtain the best matches between finalists and host offices, it does not guarantee that offices or finalists will receive their first choice. If any finalists do not have a placement at the end of the process described above, then NSGO will work with those finalists and remaining host offices on a case by case basis to determine placements.